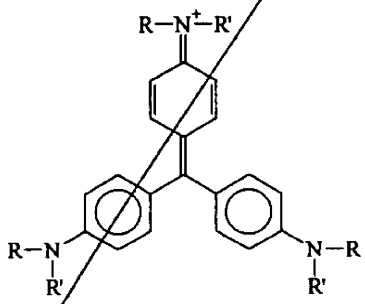
CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method of purging malignant cells from a mixture containing malignant and non-malignant cells, the method comprising:

(a) contacting the mixture with a compound selected from the group consisting of:



wherein each R and R' is independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and C_1-C_6 linear or branched alkyl;

(b) exposing the mixture from step (a) to radiation of a suitable wavelength to photoactivate the compound, thereby inducing death of malignant cells in the mixture.

2. The method of Claim 1, wherein in step (a), the mixture is contacted with a compound wherein each R and R' are methyl.

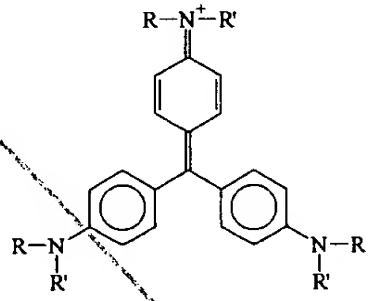
3. The method of claim 1, wherein the mixture comprises bone marrow cells.

4. The method of Claim 3, wherein the bone marrow cells are cells taken from a patient suffering from leukemia, disseminated multiple myeloma, or lymphoma.

5. The method of Claim 3, wherein the bone marrow cells are human bone marrow cells.

6. A method of killing cancer cells or inhibiting growth of cancer cells, *in vitro, in vivo,* or *ex vivo,* the method comprising:

(a) contacting the cancer cells with a compound selected from the group consisting of:



wherein each R and R' is independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and C_1-C_6 linear or branched alkyl;

(b) exposing the cancer cells from step (a) to radiation of a suitable wavelength to photoactivate the compound, whereby cancer cell death or cancer cell growth inhibition results.

7. The method of Claim 6, wherein in step (a), the cancer cells are contacted with the compound *in vitro*.

8. The method of Claim 6, wherein in step (a), the cancer cells are contacted with the compound *in vivo*.

9. The method of Claim 6, wherein in step (a), the cancer cells are contacted with the compound *ex vivo*.

10. The method of Claim 6, wherein in step (a), the cancer cells are contacted with a compound wherein each R and R' is methyl.